

The Ancestor



Vol 41, 3

2025



Inside this edition

- FHSNL Conference Review
- From Tintinhull to Greenspond
- A Journey to Newfounde Land
- Prisoners at the St. John's Gaol in 1834

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

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Linda Crocker
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David Pike
Rosalind Stokes
Pat Walsh

The Society was founded in October 1984 to foster interest in Newfoundland and Labrador ancestry, to help researchers locate information, and to give members opportunities to communicate with each other and share their research efforts. The office of the Society is located at 50 Pippy Place, unit 2, St. John's. Hours: phone (709) 754-9525 for further information.

Meetings are held in St. John's. They usually include a guest lecturer, and sometimes take the form of a workshop. The Annual General Meeting is held in the Spring of each year. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. Meetings may be held in person and/or online and begin at 7:30pm.

ANCESTOR

Editors: **Frederick Smith, Paul Dunne**
Newfoundland Strays Editor: **Patrick Walsh**
In Memoriam Editor: **Patrick Walsh**

The Ancestor is a quarterly publication of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc. Members are invited to submit articles and book reviews for publication. The Editors and Board of Directors reserve the right to publish contributions when space permits. The Editors and Board of Directors assume no responsibility for errors or opinions expressed or implied by contributors. All articles in the journal are copyright and may NOT be reproduced without the consent of the respective authors and the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.

We acknowledge that the lands on which we are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit of this province.

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Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

EDITORS: Frederick R. Smith and Paul Dunne
Volume 41 Issue 3

SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription to *The Ancestor* is available to individuals or institutions for \$45 per year and includes membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Life membership is also available for \$700. Membership is for a twelve month period beginning on the date fees are received.

We request non-Canadian members remit dues in US currency to offset the additional cost of postage.

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OFFICE LOCATION

Our office is located in 50 Pippy Place, Unit 2. From Pippy Place turn into the parking lot in front of the building and enter Unit two.

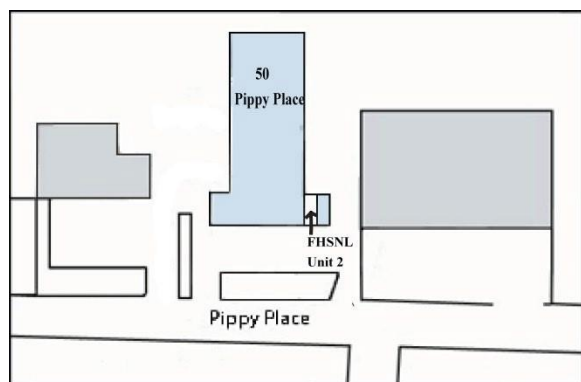


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	87
FHSNL CONFERENCE REVIEW Paul Dunne	90
IN MEMORIAM Pat Walsh	94
FROM TINTINHULL TO GREENSPOND Peter Rowe	96
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS' DEATHS AFAR Pat Walsh	104
A JOURNEY TO A NEWFOUNDE LAND James Webb	107
PRISONERS AT THE ST. JOHN'S GAOL IN 1834 Janet Morrissey	110
CASUALTY LIST Bill Whelan	114
ROACHE, ROACH, ROCHE Rosalind Stokes	118

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janet Morrissey

This is my first report for *The Ancestor* as the newest President of the Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador. I am thrilled with this exciting opportunity and hope I am able to fill Fred's very big shoes.

First item I'd like to report on is the Annual General Meeting, held May 22 where we added a new member to the Board, Mark Belbin. I am also happy to report the retention of all of our other Directors – Fred Smith, Pat Walsh, Max Grandy, Linda Crocker, Karen Darby, Paul Dunne, Craig Morrissey, David Pike, and Rosalind Stokes. This was followed by Board elections in June. Paul Dunne was elected to the role of Vice-President; in addition to President, I will remain as Secretary and Max Grandy will also remain as our very capable Treasurer. Rosalind will continue to direct our Genealogical Holdings while Linda will continue to manage Research activities. Mark has graciously agreed to take on the responsibility of our monthly speakers series while Craig moves into a new Promotions role. Paul and Fred are continuing as co-editors of *The Ancestor* and David will stay on to govern our Website activity.

The big news of late is our 2025 Rockbound Roots conference, held over July 25 to 27 this past summer at The Rooms, with a pre-conference icebreaker at the Railway Coastal Museum. By all accounts it was an extraordinary success and I invite you to read all about it in this issue of *The Ancestor*.

Despite how busy the Society was all summer with planning and executing the conference, our office was open three days a week over the summer, for a couple of hours on each of those days. The conference has improved our visibility to the family history community and we are happy to say that we have a welcome new bevy of volunteers; we expect to be able to keep regular and frequent office hours well into the fall.

I also want to extend a warm welcome back to our hard-working volunteers: Jill Marshall, Judith Laurentius, Cathy Whitten, Bob Baird, Elsa Flack and Ethel Dempsey. I never knew it was Sherry Anderson (until the internet straightened me out) who said 'Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.' So, I'd like to take this opportunity to send a warm thank-you to our volunteers for all you do in support of our Society.

As usual, we are always very interested in receiving articles for *The Ancestor* and if you have ideas for speakers or topics you'd like to see in our speaker series (or would like to make a presentation yourself), we'd love to hear from you.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS

The following are available in hardcopy for sale at the office:

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Trinity, T. B., NL

Index of names, baptisms, marriages, and burials

1753-1867 \$25.00

1867- Early 1900s \$25.00

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Basilica marriages, St. John's, NL

Index by surnames (bride and groom) 1793, 1797-1821, 1855-1874 \$25.00

St. James Anglican Church baptisms, King's Cove, B.B., NL

Index by surnames 1835-1900 \$25.00

There are about 4600 marriages in the Basilica records, sorted by bride's surname, bride's birth name and by groom's surname. There are about 2400 baptisms in the King's Cove records.

Copies of The Ancestor \$11.50

NOTE: Postage is not included in the prices listed on this page.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 10:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am-3:00pm

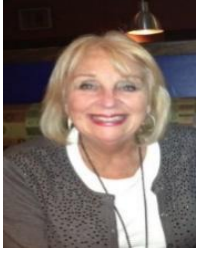
Thursday: 10:00am-12:00pm

NOTE: The office will be closed on statutory holidays, and when weather is sufficiently inclement that the city's schools are closed.

All request for research, articles and general information should be directed to the main office at 709-754-9525, e-mail at fhs@fhsnl.ca or by regular mail.

The Ancestor relies on its members and general public to submit articles regarding their family histories, community histories and other historical events related to family history. In order for us to continue to publish The Ancestor we need you to continue to send in articles and pictures. E-mail us at ancestor@fhsnl.ca

If you would like to see an article about a specific topic in The Ancestor, please let us know and we will attempt to find the information for you. Topic suggestions are always welcome.



ACQUISITIONS - *Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes*

TITLE

Beazley
 The Linossier Family
 Case
 Conception Bay South
 Barrett
 Michelin, Hubbard, Goudie (*A Labrador Project*)
 To Be My Father's Daughter Coaker
 A History of Torbay
 Tilting
 As We Were Old Perlican
 Ancient People of Port Au Choix
 The Youngs of Quidi Vidi
 Descendants of William Keen
 Meadows of Memories Colinet Island
 The Working World of Egbert Warren
 Growing up in Trouty
 Season of the Seals
 Family Research in New Zealand
 Fight the Good Fight Church Lads Brigade
 Born with the Sea in his Blood Blackmore
 Bartlett Notes
 Stokes Family
 Baird Family
 Hobbs Path, Old Perlican Connections

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 G. Pocius
 Nellie Rosalind Coleridge
 Calvin Coish
 Ann Bromell
 Capt. Stirling Pritchett
 H. Donald Blackmore
 Marilyn Shaw Guisset
 Robert Stokes Baird
 Robert Stokes Baird
 Kathleen Noseworthy

Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference Review

Paul Dunne

Photos: Pat Walsh

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (FHSNL) recently hosted a two-day genealogy conference that drew together researchers, family historians, and community members for an inspiring and memorable gathering. The conference offered an impressive range of presentations, reflecting both the depth and breadth of genealogical research in Newfoundland and Labrador and its wider connections abroad. Attendees praised the event for its engaging sessions, its warm and welcoming atmosphere, and the invaluable opportunities to share their own research journeys with fellow participants.



SATURDAY: Heritage, Case Studies, and Shared Journeys



Craig Morrissey and D. A. Lambert

The conference opened Saturday morning with a warm welcome and introduction to keynote speaker D. A. Lambert. Lambert's keynote, "Newfoundland Heritage in the 'Boston States': A Personal Journey on Rediscovering Your Forgotten Heritage and Lost Cousins," set the tone for the weekend. Drawing on personal experience, Lambert illustrated how genealogical work can reconnect families across borders and generations. Attendees responded enthusiastically to the keynote, finding both inspiration and practical insight in the story of rediscovering heritage long thought lost.

The morning continued with Willeen Keough's thought-provoking presentation, "'Two brothers came out from Ireland...' But what did their sisters decide to do?" This session opened lively discussions about migration patterns and family decision-making, shining light on women's choices and experiences that often go undocumented.

Immediately following, David Pike presented “The Surname Pike in Newfoundland & Labrador: A Case Study with Y-DNA.” His session blended traditional genealogical research with modern genetic tools, offering attendees a fascinating case study of how DNA can illuminate family histories.

After a mid-day lunch break that provided time for conversation and networking, the afternoon began with Brenda Jones’s talk, “My Ancestral Trail.” This personal narrative resonated strongly with participants, reminding them that genealogy is at once a scholarly pursuit and a deeply personal journey.

The afternoon’s momentum continued with a joint presentation by Susan Reid, Susan Snelgrove, and Susan Squires: “Using Channel Islands Records to Construct Families in Newfoundland.” Their collaborative approach highlighted how international records can provide critical context for local family histories. Attendees commented on how eye-opening the presentation was, sparking new ideas for their own research.

Following a short coffee break, Frank Gogos led the session with “A Genealogical Journey Through War and Remembrance.” His work underscored the ways in which family histories intersect with broader historical events, particularly military service and remembrance.



Raymond Blake, Craig Morrissey and Hayward Blake

The day concluded with Raymond and Hayward Blake’s compelling presentation, “The Personal Is Historical and History Is Personal.” This session left participants with much to reflect on, reinforcing the theme that family history and broader history are inseparably linked.

SUNDAY: Stories, Technology, and Global Connections

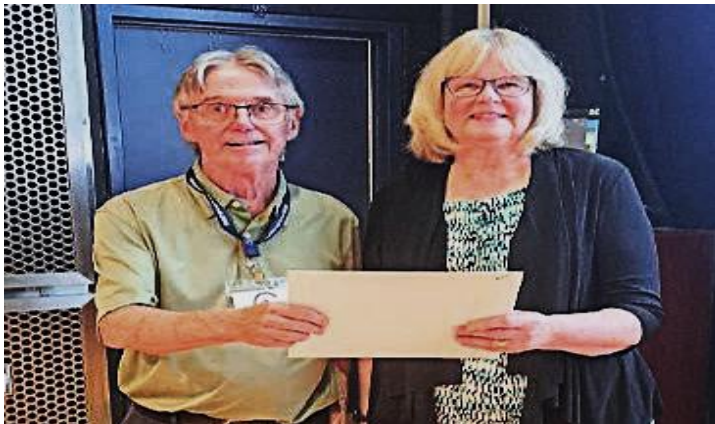
Sunday began with morning coffee and a cheerful welcome back from FHSNL which provided updates and a sense of continuity from the first day. The first session of the day, “Collecting Family Stories” by Dale Jarvis, focused on the importance of oral history. Attendees appreciated the emphasis on preserving not just documents, but the voices and stories that bring family histories vividly to life.

Next, Katie Crane presented “Preserving Cemetery Heritage: Using BillionGraves to Document Historic Gravemarkers.” This practical session showcased how technology and community collaboration can safeguard heritage sites while providing valuable data for genealogical research.



Raymond Keogh and Max Grandy

After another networking lunch, the afternoon resumed with Susan Squires and Susan Snelgrove presenting “One Place Study – Conception Bay North.” Their project demonstrated the richness of focusing intensively on a single locality, offering lessons that many participants found applicable to their own research interests.



Pat Angel and Peggy Jude

The late morning session was led by Raymond Keogh, with an exploration of the meaning of human identity and who also shared “Southeast Ireland Newfoundland Identity Project (SINIP).” This cross-Atlantic initiative resonated with attendees who valued the exploration of cultural and historical connections between Ireland and Newfoundland.

One of the weekend’s most eagerly anticipated talks followed: Peggy Jude’s “Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy.” Attendees were fascinated by the possibilities AI brings to research, record-keeping, and analysis. The presentation sparked animated conversations about how new technologies can complement traditional genealogical methods.



Elsa Flack, Craig Morrissey, David Pike and D. A. Lambert

A coffee break offered time for reflection and discussion before the weekend’s closing event: The Expert Panel. Featuring D. A. Lambert, David Pike, Elsa Flack, and Craig Morrissey, the panel provided attendees the opportunity to ask questions, exchange insights, and hear a variety of perspectives from leading genealogists. The panel format encouraged dialogue and helped attendees leave the conference with fresh ideas and renewed energy for their own projects.

A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Beyond the sessions themselves, what stood out most to participants was the sense of community and connection. Attendees spoke enthusiastically about the opportunity to meet others with similar interests, share research challenges, and exchange tips and resources. The chance to discuss family histories over coffee, at lunch, and during informal breaks was seen as just as valuable as the formal presentations.

The conference was praised not only for the variety and quality of its topics but also for the supportive and collaborative environment it fostered. Participants left with new knowledge, new friendships, and a renewed appreciation for the importance of preserving and sharing family histories.

In the words of many attendees, the event was more than a conference—it was a celebration of heritage, discovery, and community.



The Conference Committee: Pat Angel, Pat Walsh, Craig Morrissey, Janet Morrissey, Paul Dunne, Rosalind Stokes, Max Grandy & Linda Crocker

In Memoriam

Submitted by Pat Walsh

Note: In this and previous issues of The Newfoundland Ancestor, I have attempted to pay honour and respect to our veterans of World War II and the Korean War and members of our Armed Forces and also other citizens who have died aged 100 or older. There may be some individuals included who may have achieved some noted degree of accomplishment in their chosen profession. I have relied on the obituary notices in the local Telegram. I know there are many other veterans and other noted individuals who have passed away in other areas of our province. More information on these individuals may be found in The Telegram - www.the-telegram.com/. Lest We Forget. Please submit selected obituaries to me care of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Faulkner, Alexander “Alex”, on April 7, 2025, aged 88. Newfoundland and Labrador Hockey Legend. Newfoundland’s first National Hockey League Player. Born on May 21, 1936 in Bishop’s Falls. Predeceased by his parents, Lester & Olive, & his brothers, Lester “Lindy”, Dec. 15, 2009 & George, Jan. 19, 2025. Husband of Doris. Father of Shawn, Sandy & Tammy. Brother of Seth, Jack, Marie & Betty Pretty (Ed). He was inducted into the Sport NL Hall of Fame in 1983 and the NL Hockey Hall of Fame in 1994. He began his NHL career with the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1961. He moved to the Detroit Red Wings in 1962. He played with the Minor League Memphis Red Wings & three seasons with the San Diego Gulls. He was a member of five winning Herder Memorial Championship teams in the Senior Hockey League throughout Newfoundland, three with the Grand Falls Andcos & two with the Conception Bay Cee Bees. He also played with the St. John’s Capitals. Obit & photo Hoskins Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Grand Falls- Windsor.

Faulkner, George, Dec. 27, 1933 – Jan. 19, 2025. Newfoundland and Labrador Hockey Legend. Born in Bishop’s Falls. Predeceased by his parents, Lester & Olive, his first wife, Midge (2010) & his brother,

Lester “Lindy”, Dec. 15, 2009. Husband of Barbara. Father of Bob & Peter. Brother of Alex, Jack, Seth, Marie & Betty Pretty (Ed). He was an accomplished singer & guitar player. A 2010 Honorary Graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was inducted into the Sport NL Hall of Fame in 1982 and the NL Hockey Hall of Fame in 1994. A former Recreation Director for the Town of Harbour Grace. He was a 9 – time Herder Memorial Champion. He represented Canada at the 1966 World Hockey Championships when they won the Bronze medal. He helped start the Conception Bay Ceebees Hockey Club in 1958. They won seven Herder Memorial trophies. He also played with the Corner Brook Royals, the Gander Flyers & St. John’s Capitals. Obit & photo Hoskins Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Grand Falls-Windsor.

Fennelly, Leo Joseph, April 22, 1931 – March 3, 2025, in St. John’s. Korean War Veteran. Predeceased by his parents Michael & Mary Jane (nee Brennan) Fennelly, his sisters Mary Chidley (Stephen), Judith Noland (James), Ann Power (Arthur), Bernadette Kenny (William) & his brothers, James & Thomas. Husband of 64 years of Anita Cecilia (nee Kinsella). Father of Dolores Wall, Paul & Michael. Former

resident of Mount Pearl. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Homes Ltd. St. John's & Mount Pearl.

Luscombe, Janet (nee Downton) on Jan. 25, 2022, aged 111, in Markham Stouffville Hospital, ON Born in Lewisporte in August 1910, daughter of Daniel & Jessie Downton. In 1931 she married Chesley George Luscombe. They moved to Ontario in 1949. Predeceased by her parents, her husband, 1975, & her children Ruth Abbott (Henry), Roy, & M. Jean Dewar (Earl). Mother of Barbara Dewar (now aged 85).

Mercer, Lillian (nee Upshall) Aged 100, on Aug. 18, 2025. Born in St. John's on Dec. 18, 1924. Predeceased by her parents, William & Susie Upshall, her husband Frederick Mercer, her sister Ruby McCarthy & brother Elmer Upshall. Mother of Dorothy Coady (Gerry), Viola Mundon (Boyd, predeceased), Diane Spurrell, Fred & Valerie Pinksen (Warrick). Interment in the Anglican Cemetery on Kenmount Road, St. John's. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Homes Ltd. St. John's.

Normore, Nora Ita (nee Martin) on April 17, 2025, aged 105, at Alderwood Estates, Witless Bay. Originally from St. Vincent's, St. Mary's Bay. Predeceased by her parents, Aiden & Theresa Martin, her step-mother, Madeline, her husband Fred, her daughter Sister Anne Marie Normore, Oct. 25, 2011, (Sister of Mercy), her son Don & her sister Jenny Luby. Mother of Gordon, Sister of Jim, Margaret Rose, Mary & Paula. Interment at the Sacred heart Cemetery, Tors Cove. Obit & photo Ryan's Funeral Home, Bay Bulls & Historic Wabana Face Book Blog.

Pilgrim, Earl Baxter, Oct. 15, 1939 – July 3, 2025 of Roddicton, in St. Anthony. Predeceased by his wife, Beatrice Violet Compton on July 126, 2016. They were married in Englee on Nov. 24, 1965. Father of Ceasar, Baine & Nadine. Brother of Grace Brophy, Iris Canning & Ramona Manual. A lumberman, employee of the US Armed Forces in Goose Bay in 1959 & a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. He was a Canadian Light Heavyweight Boxing National Champion. He worked in BC. He served as a Forest Ranger & worked with Newfoundland Wildlife. He served on local town councils & regional development associations. He was the author of 17 best sellers of local stories in Newfoundland and Labrador. He retired in 1993 & was a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Obit & photo Kerry M. Fillatre Funeral Homes, St. Anthony & Roddicton.

Pye, Jennie, in St. John's, on July 14, 2024, aged 101. Predeceased by her first husband, Alexander Yetmam & her second husband, Reginald Pye. Mother of stepson, Jules Yetman. Sister of Clyde Reynolds, Toronto, ON & Dr. J. Berkley Reynolds, St. John's. Obit & photo The Telegram July 17, 2024.

From Tintinhull to Greenspond: A Genealogical Journey into the Origins of James Hefferton

Peter Rowe

Introduction:

For those of us who delve into family history, the trail often begins with church registers, census lists, or a long-forgotten newspaper clipping. But what happens when these records fail to offer answers? Increasingly, genealogists are turning to DNA analysis to uncover lost origins. This is the story of how traditional research, genetic evidence, and historical context came together to form a plausible theory about the origins of my cousin's 2nd great-grandfather, James Hefferton of Newfoundland.

The First Clues: James Hefferton in Newfoundland

The earliest documented record of James Hefferton is his marriage to Susanna Harding in Greenspond, Newfoundland, on September 12, 1816. According to the church register, James was a bachelor and Susanna a spinster. Another critical record—his baptism in 1830 at age 37—places his birth around 1793.

While these records confirmed James lived and raised a family in Greenspond, they provided no insight into his place of birth or family of origin. Suspecting that further records might lie beyond what's available online, I sought the help of genealogist Craig Morrissey of St. John's, Newfoundland. Despite extensive local knowledge and access to archives at The Rooms in St. John's, Newfoundland, Craig's research yielded no definitive information on James's ancestry.

Form P.31. 18-7046-44. Dicks

Page 1

Registering Officers are particularly requested to have Returns sent on the last day of each Quarter and not include in any Return Events occurring in any portion of the following Quarter. It is right to include Events which may have been omitted in any previous Quarter.

District of *Bonavista Bay North*
Return of Marriages for the *6. Q. E.* Parish of *Greenspond*, for the Quarter *year 1816*

No.	DATE OF MARRIAGE Month Day Year	PLACE OF MARRIAGE	NAME AND SURNAME	AGE	BACHELOR, SPINSTER, Etc.	OCCUPATION	RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION	RESIDENCE OF EACH PARTY AT TIME OF MARRIAGE	BY WHOM MARRIED	WITNESSES TWO ONLY FOR EACH MA
1	Jan 12 1816	Greenspond	Benjamin Durham		B		b. q. E.			
2	June 1 1816	Greenspond	Jane Barry Asher Yettman Sarah Parker		S B S		b. q. E.			
3	June 10 1816	Greenspond	John Llewistapple Susanna Noble		B S		b. q. E.			
4	Aug. 26 1816	Greenspond	John Liti Sarah Ansty		B S		b. q. E.			
5	Sept 12 1816	Greenspond	James Hefferton Susanna Harding		B S		b. q. E.			
6	Oct. 30 1816	Greenspond	James Saunders Rebecca Johnstone		B S		b. q. E.			
7	Nov 7 1816	Greenspond	John Johnstone Elizabeth Ansty		B S		b. q. E.			
8	Nov 14 1816	Greenspond	Stephen Baker Mary Keen		B S		b. q. E.			

Names of persons as written in many Returns are very difficult to decipher. Legible writing is therefore absolutely necessary. Attention to this note is most important, otherwise serious errors must occur in the Register.

Church record from Bonavista Bay North – Parish of Greenspond (line 5) – showing James Hefferton Marriage https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/61507/images/FS_004554298_00612?pid=123909

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND <i>Page 3</i> I CERTIFY that the following particulars of BIRTHS are a true and accurate copy of the Register of Baptisms in the Parish of <u>Greenwood</u> District <u>Bona Vista Bay</u> for the quarter ending <u>year 1838</u>. <u>S. M. Bradbrook</u> Registrar of Baptisms Office												
No.	DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH	FATHER'S NAME (Surname of Father first placed)	CHRISTIAN NAME OF CHILD	SEX M. F.	BY WHOM BAPTIZED	DATE OF BAPTISM		Baptism Certificate Book of CHM	Father's Occupation	REMARKS
	Month	Day Year						Month	Day			
1			Greenwood	Hillier	Anne	F		March	31	1838		Aged 36 yrs
2			"	Saunders, (wife of Robert Saunders)	Charlotte	F		"	31	"		" 32 yrs
3			"	Hutchings	Joseph	M		April	1	"		" 28 "
4			"	Hutchings	Edward	M		"	1	"		" 24 "
5			"	Brunt	Thomas	A		"	1	"		" 23 "
6			"	Baile	Robert	M		"	1	"		" 23 "
7	March	7 1838	"	Stratton, John & Jane	Anne	F		"	4	"		" 22 yrs
8			"	Edgar	Anne	F		"	12	"		" 23 yrs
9			"	Edgar	Maria	F		"	12	"		" 21 "
10			"	Edgar	Benjamin	M		"	12	"		" 18 "
11			"	Edgar	George	M		"	12	"		" 16 "
12			"	Edgar	Louisa	F		"	12	"		" 12 yrs
13			"	Hand	Thomas	M		"	12	"		Aged 58 yrs
14			"	Hand	Mary	F		"	12	"		" 37 "
15			"	Newton	Elizabeth	F		"	12	"		
16			"	Haffton	Jane	M		"	12	"		

Baptism Office are particularly requested to have names and at the last day of each Month and not include in any Return books occurring in any portion of the following month.

Books which may have been omitted in any previous Month through deferred Baptism or other cause should be included.

Church record from Bonavista Bay North – Parish of Greenspond(line 16) – showing James Hefferton Baptism

https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/61507/images/FS_004554298_00315?rc=&queryId=00edc5c9-c15e-43a7-be18-24d5639d4866&usePUB=true&_phsrc=ObU13391&_phstart=successSource&pld=119690

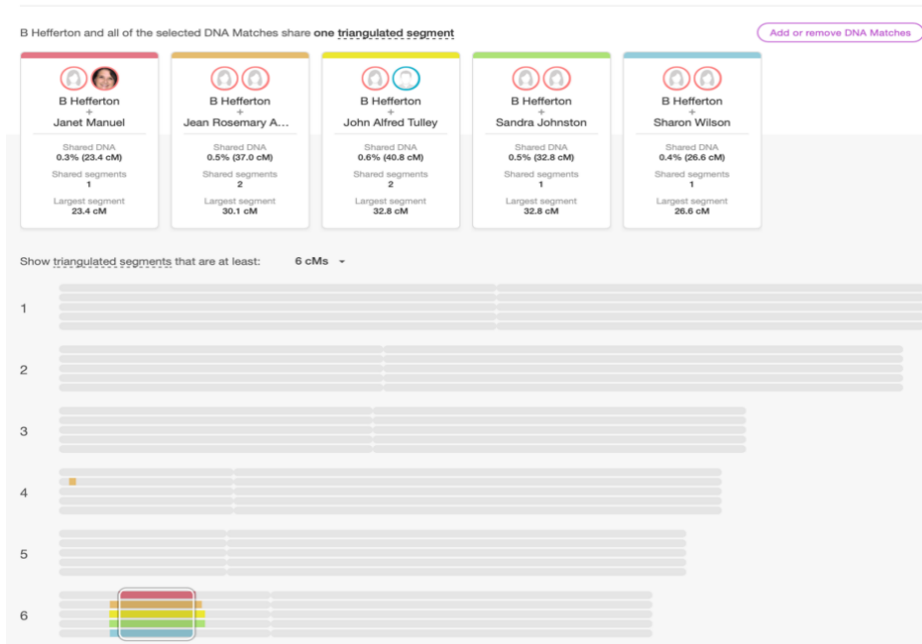
Turning to DNA for Answers

Realizing that documentary evidence had reached a dead end, I turned to DNA. My cousin Barb Hefferton graciously allowed me access to her Ancestry DNA results, which I uploaded to MyHeritage and GEDMatch to compare matches and map chromosomes. Both tools allow users to identify relatives who share DNA segments—clues that point to a shared ancestor.

The breakthrough came when I identified 11 people who matched Barb's DNA on the same location of the same chromosome—strong evidence of a shared ancestor. Several of these matches had well-documented family trees, and through careful cross-referencing, I found recurring surnames: **Chaffey** and **Russ**, appearing in both England and Australia. As a result of further research I was able to identify 19 individuals who all descended from Henry Russ (1697-1782) & Ann Marell (1701-1782) of Tintinhull, Somerset.

This cluster of shared ancestry suggested that Barb—and therefore James—descended from the **Russ family** of Tintinhull, Somerset, England. I enlisted certified genetic genealogist Mike Sainsbury to help analyze the data. Though the project provided valuable information and direction for further research, due to project scope constraints, Mike wasn't able to pinpoint James's exact origin, however he confirmed that Barb's strongest DNA connections pointed toward the Russ lineage. The connection to the Russ family was confirmed by my additional research which showed 19 people who matched Barb Hefferton's DNA all descended from a member of the Russ family of Tintinhull.

Chromosome Browser — One-to-many ⓘ



MyHeritage representation of 5 of Barb Hefferton's DNA matches

GEDmatch® Matching Segment Search

Software Version Dec 17 2024 07:42:49

Kit: GB2139043: (*BHefferton) [Ancestry]

Segment threshold size will be adjusted dynamically between 200 and 400 SNPs

Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 7 cM

To conserve system resources, matches closer than 2100 cM will not be shown.

Comparison Finished (8 kits)

Submit selected items to Multi-Kit-Analysis

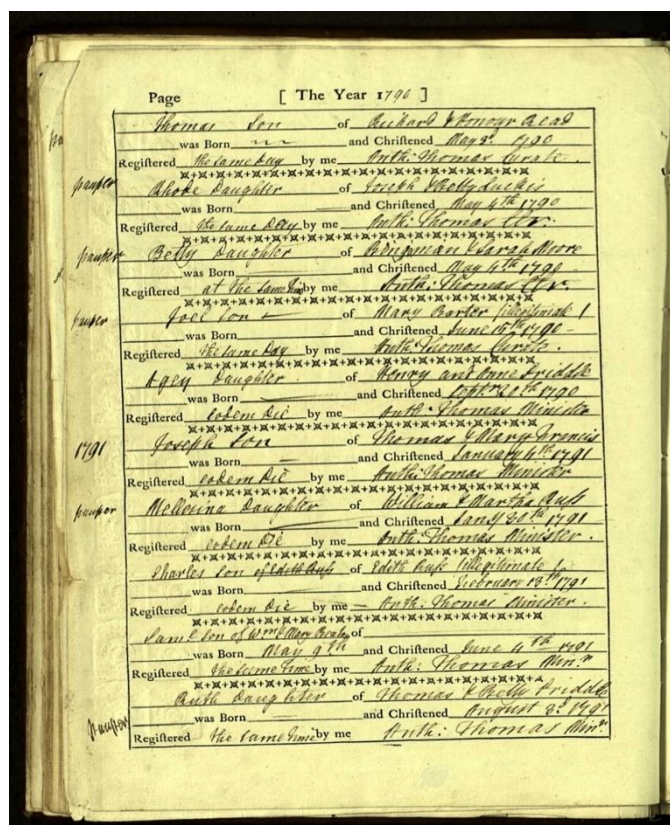
MULTI-KIT-ANALYSIS

Select 2 or more from column ✓

Click [HERE](#) to download segment match csv data to a comma-separated CSV file.

Kit	✓	Chr	Start Posn	End Posn	cM	SNPs	Name	Sex	Email	Segments
Chromosome 6										
A090851	☐	6	14492938	42194440	33.1	5458	Don Odell	M	ode****@gmail.com	
BW4254386	☐	6	14644319	39811883	27.9	4810	Nelson Ricketts	M	jri****@aol.com	
H954840	☐	6	14644319	42207784	32.8	6039	Sandra Johnston	F	san****@outlook.com	
Z194306	☐	6	14644319	42207784	32.8	5939	J Tulley	M	san****@outlook.com	
A349030	☐	6	15041943	38750888	25.4	4588	Sharon Sheridan	F	orc****@hotmail.com	
A082436	☐	6	17494348	39306063	21.4	4785	*Janet M	F	pla****@yahoo.com	
HH3743726	☐	6	22150358	42194440	21	4644	*mjanson0101	F	max****@grapevine.com.au	
T970853	☐	6	22207494	42060835	20.6	4547	*emur	M	neo****@sbcglobal.net	
BW4254386	☐	6	83584304	93488364	8.4	485	Nelson Ricketts	M	jri****@aol.com	
Chromosome 15										
BW4254386	☐	15	95167478	99248132	13.8	572	Nelson Ricketts	M	jri****@aol.com	

GEDMatch representation of 9 of Barb Hefferton's DNA matches



A Likely Candidate: Charles Russ, Born 1791

Having established the connection between Barb Hefferton and the Russ family through the DNA matches, the next step was to try and determine which Russ family members were the potential parent of James Hefferton. Using James's estimated birth year of 1793, I reviewed Tintinhull baptismal records for any male Russ children born between 1785 and 1800. There were 5 baptisms for males during this period, however, only one individual matched both the timeframe and the lack of additional life records: **Charles Russ**, baptized in 1791 as the illegitimate son of **Edith Russ**. The other 4 individuals could be matched to other records which showed they had either died young or went on to get married and reside in Tintinhull. No death, marriage, or adult record exists for Charles—suggesting either an early death or disappearance.

Charles Baptism Record -

https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/60856/records/441327?tid=&pid=&queryId=8caf9059-6aa0-4afc-9a8a-7539e6410a2c&_phsrc=ObU13205&_phstart=successSource

This context frames the early life of a young boy named Charles. Since Charles was baptized at St. Margaret's, as most illegitimate children were at the time, it would suggest Edith's commitment to including her son in the Christian community despite the stigma. It may also reflect that Edith was not entirely destitute or unsupported. Her willingness to baptize her son may indicate family solidarity or even some level of paternal acknowledgment, informal though it may have been.

Nonetheless, Charles's prospects as a "base born" child would have been severely constrained. He would not have had rights to inheritance or land, and securing a formal apprenticeship often required the backing of a legitimate father or guardian. Many boys in similar circumstances were either apprenticed into agricultural or maritime work or left to seek subsistence labour in towns, poorhouses, or aboard merchant and fishing vessels.

By the late 18th century, Newfoundland's cod fishery had become a major employer of seasonal laborers from the English West Country—especially Devon, Dorset, and Somerset. Fishing fleets departing from ports such as Poole frequently recruited or transported boys and young men as fishermen, coopers, and shore workers. Some were indentured servants; others found passage through informal or even covert means. For impoverished or illegitimate youths, the promise of work or escape across the Atlantic held both danger and allure.

Given the social and economic pressures Edith likely faced, and the lack of options available to her son, the hypothesis that Charles stowed away or was otherwise sent to Newfoundland in his youth becomes plausible. This is also in line with the anecdotal evidence from a record on Ancestry that "it was believed that James Hefferton was a stow-a-way". Some parishes may have even viewed such departures as a form of practical relief—an informal solution to

the fiscal burden of illegitimate children. In this regard, Charles's journey fits within a broader pattern of working-class migration shaped by hardship and necessity.

This gives rise to a third possibility: that Charles left England under informal or even clandestine circumstances. The theory that Charles and James are the same person becomes more compelling.

Tintinhull in the 1790s: Life for the Illegitimate Poor

Tintinhull was a typical rural Somerset parish of 300–500 residents, rooted in farming and Anglican tradition. At its heart stood **St. Margaret's Church**, where nearly all baptisms—including those of illegitimate children—were recorded. Baptism was both a religious rite and legal documentation under the Old Poor Law.

Illegitimacy was not uncommon, though socially stigmatized. Parish registers would name the mother but often omit the father. The Poor Law required mothers to identify the father to ensure the child wouldn't become a financial burden, though enforcement was inconsistent. Children like Charles Russ, labeled "base born," were often denied inheritance, apprenticeships, or education

A Glimpse into Life's Hardships: The Case of George Rice

A poignant comparison comes from **George Rice**, the younger brother of Edith Russ's husband to be, Isaac Rice. Born in Tintinhull in 1796, George lost his father at age five, his mother at age 8 and was placed in the care of strangers. George lived his early life in the same rural town around the same time as Charles, he had the benefits of having parents and the support of a family early in his life. However, his obituary recounts the harsh labor and abuse he endured before emigrating to Newfoundland, where he worked for the mercantile firm Fryer, Gosse and Pack.

George's obituary, published in an Oxford County, Ontario newspaper, offers a vivid account of the hardships he endured after the death of his father:

"Having lost his father at the early age of five years the deceased endured all the hardships and privations consequent on being thrown on the world at so early an age, and being placed on the hands of strangers with whom, as soon as he had attained sufficient age, he was obliged to toil from early morn until eve, to earn a livelihood, enduring all the buffeting and oft times personal violence inflicted upon the youth of that period by tyrannical and overbearing taskmasters. In this manner was his life spent, until arriving at the age of manhood, he enlisted in the militia and served as homeguard until the battle of Waterloo decided the fate of Europe and peace was proclaimed (1815)."

<https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/91026878/media/fb052491-26bd-4141-889e-497af100829f?galleryindex=170&sort=-created&filter=s>

If a child with known parents endured such hardship, the plight of someone like Charles—without any paternal support—was likely worse. George's trajectory provides a real-world example of the kind of life Charles may have faced and ultimately fled.

Theory and Evidence: From Charles to James

The key points of this hypothesis are:

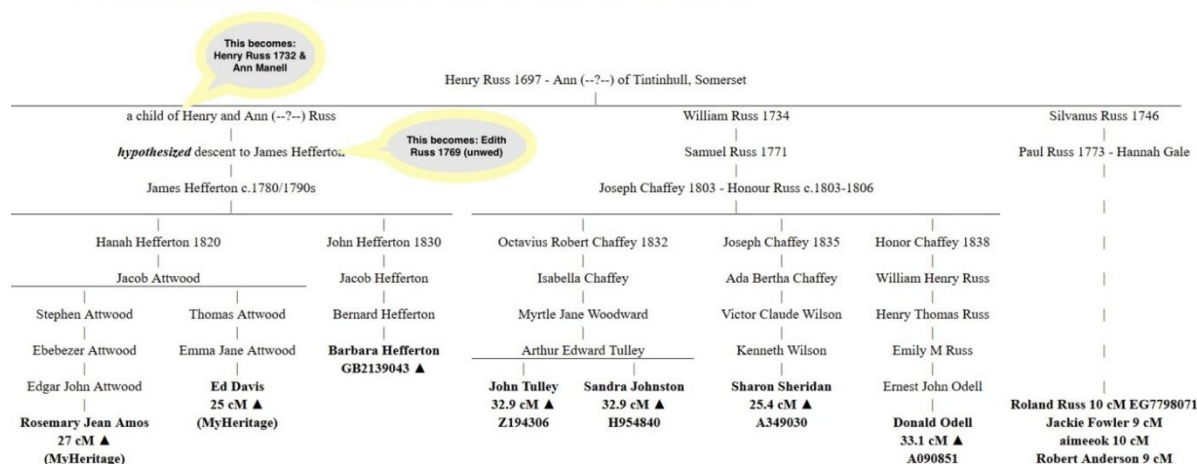
- Strong DNA evidence linking the Hefferton's to the Russ family
- **James Hefferton** was born around 1793.
- **Charles Russ**, born in 1791 to **Edith Russ**, fits the time and location.
- No other known records exist for Charles Russ after his baptism.
- A plausible and historically consistent migration path exists.
- A family tradition suggests James was a stowaway.

The name “Hefferton” does not appear in any English parish records from that time, though variants like **Heffernan** or **Hefferin** were present. It’s possible Charles adopted a phonetically similar name upon arriving in Newfoundland - particularly as he was very likely illiterate and underage and would be trying to disguise his true identity to avoid the consequences of being discovered.

A special DNA test called yDNA identifies DNA which is passed from father to son and traces the parental relationship back in time. It was hoped that an yDNA test would have confirmed the relationship between Harold Hefferton, Barb Hefferton’s brother, and the Russ family. Though yDNA testing by Harold yielded no matches, this doesn’t contradict the hypothesis—it may simply reflect a lack of Russ family members in current yDNA databases.

Below is a table showing the hypothetical Russ Family Tree from the Mike Sainsbury report. The two “text bubbles” indicate the hypothesis I am putting forth based on my research, which shows the mother of James Hefferton (*Charles Russ*) to be Edith Russ 1769 (unwed) and Edith’s father to be Henry Russ (1732), son of Henry Russ (1697) and his wife Ann Manell.

Attachment D. James Hefferton Hypothetical “Russ” Family Tree with Select Matches



Nelson Robert Ricketts BW4254386 and Janet Manuel A082436 may also be added to this tree as Hefferton cousins with the same DNA segment on ch. 6.

Conclusion: A Life Reconstructed

The story of James Hefferton—born perhaps as Charles Russ—is one shaped by hardship, resilience, and the timeless human impulse to seek a better life. Illegitimate and likely poor, he may have crossed the Atlantic as a boy, abandoned his past, and forged a new identity in Newfoundland.

While we may never uncover a record linking Charles to James, the convergence of documentary evidence, DNA results, and social history offers a compelling, evidence-based portrait. It's a story shared by many whose names are absent from formal records, but whose lives helped shape the communities they joined.

Acknowledgments:

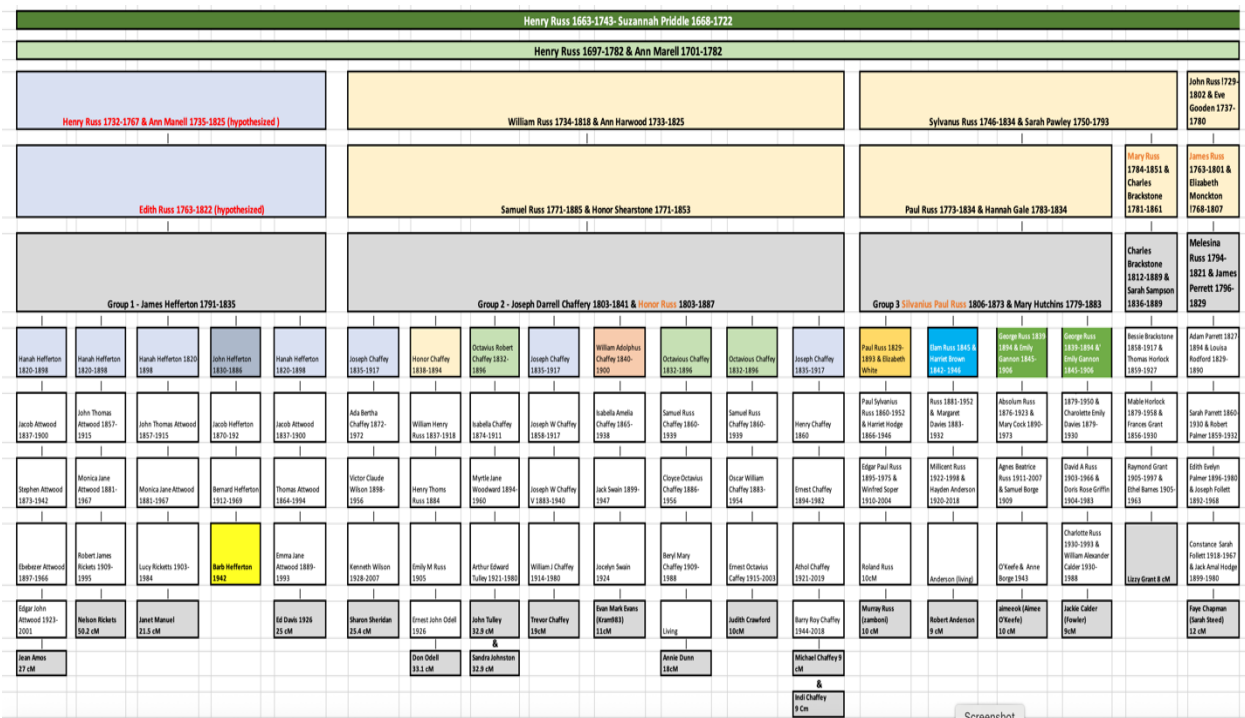
Many thanks to Barb Hefferton for providing DNA access and to Harold Hefferton for undergoing yDNA testing. Their willingness to share has made this research possible.

Thanks to Janet Manuel, Sandra Johnston, Kimsey Fowler and Murray Russ who responded to my information requests through Ancestry and MyHeritage and offered their willingness to help and provide insights into their family trees.

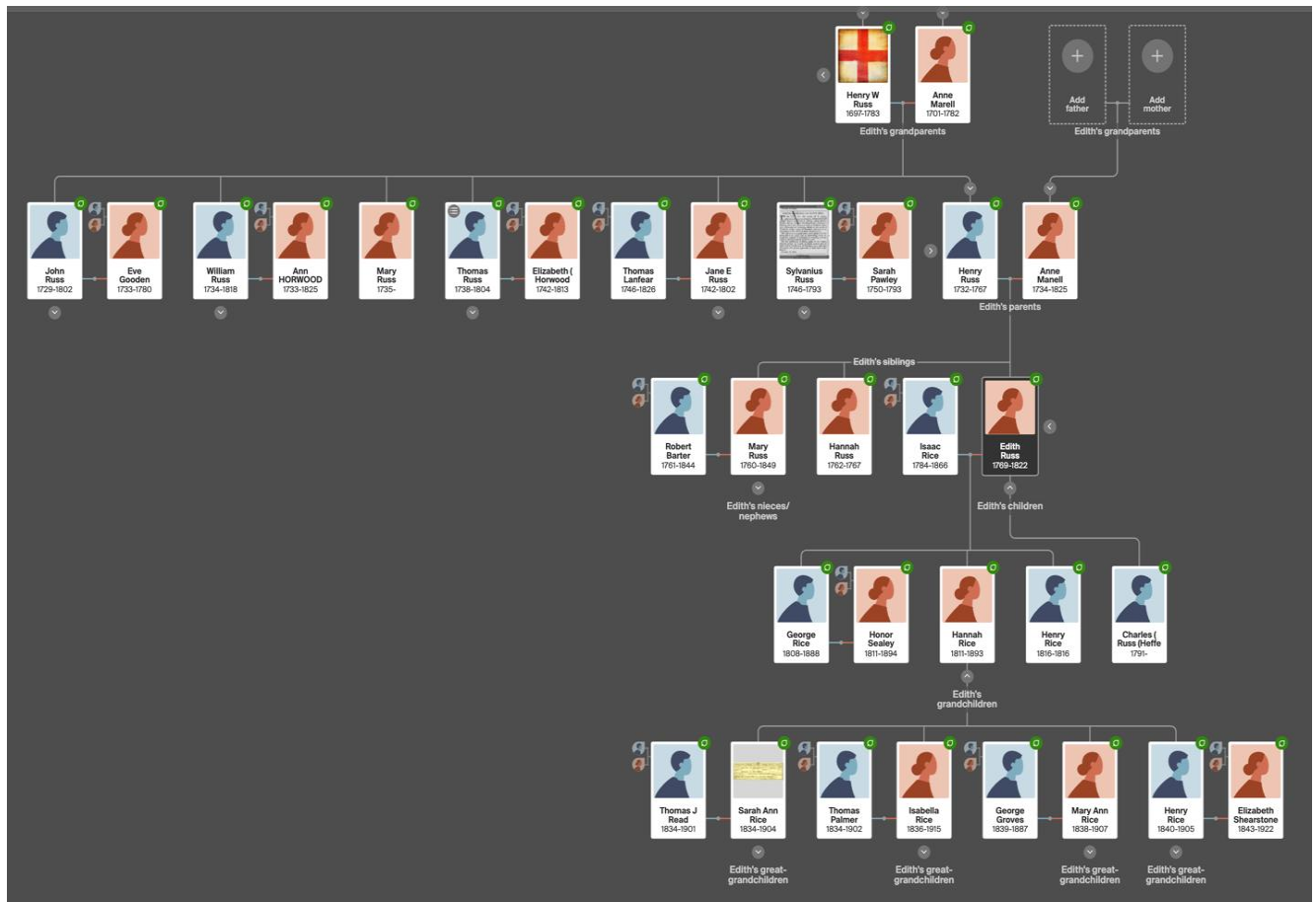
I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of both Craig Morrissey (<https://www.apgen.org/users/craig-morrissey>) and Mike Sainsbury (<https://dnafamilyhelp.com/>) who's research, direction and suggestions helped immensely in my research and the creation of this document.

Attachments:

The diagram below shows the DNA matches from Ancestry to Barb Hefferton and their origins from the Russ family:



The diagram below shows a portion of the Russ family tree, focusing on Edith Russ (3rd row, far right):



Tintinhull Local History Group

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS DEATHS AFAR

Compiled by Pat Walsh

What is a Stray? A Stray is defined as a person who is described in a record of an event as being from or connected with a place outside the area in which the event took place. For example, someone born in one place dies in another and the event is reported in a local newspaper. Thank you to The Ontario Genealogical Society for this definition of a Stray.

I do take most of our strays from The Telegram, <https://www.saltwire.com> & The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia. For more detailed information, please research the newspaper for the dates listed. Strays from Bell Island appear on the Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page. It is a website celebrating the history, culture & people of Bell Island, NL with particular emphasis on the Wabana iron-ore mining operation. Thank you to Gail Hussey –Weir, this private group page has over 500 members. See also Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.

Note: Now that we no longer have a daily newspaper in St. John's, more and more of the strays will be taken from the funeral homes' website. I ask our readers to submit strays from their own local areas.

Bartlett, Kyran Oct. 6, 1944 – May 24, 2025 in Brampton, ON. Born on Bell Island. Predeceased by his parents, William & Rose Bartlett & his brothers Bob & Greg. Husband of Susan. Father of Tom, Jen & Jeff. Brother of Mary, Cliff, Bill, Tom, Pat, Miriam & Roxanne. Obit & photo Brampton Funeral Home & Cemetery, Brantford, ON. See also Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page and Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.

Boone, Roma Jacqueline (nee Colbourne) April 16, 1926 – May 8, 2025 in Ottawa, Ontario. In her 100th year. Born in Bishop's Falls, daughter of Edwin & Sadie Colbourne (nee Lucas). Predeceased by her parents & her husband James G. Boone. She trained as a nurse in St. John's & at university in Toronto, ON. Sister of Harold, Joyce, Don, Pat Sigurjonsson (John, predeceased), Phyllis Toms (Roy) & Bert. Mother of David. Obit & photos, Hulse, Playfair & McGarry, Funeral & Cremation Services, Ottawa, ON.

Bursey, Thomas Albert on April 22, 2025, aged 77. Former RCMP. Born on Bell Island in 1948. His family lived on Scotia Ridge, until 1966. Husband of Joanne De Carufel. Predeceased by his parents, William Bursey & Marie Fitzpatrick, & his brothers, William,

Bernard & Edward John. Father of Karen, Michelle & David. Brother of Lorraine, Jenny, Margaret, Keith, Kathy, Anita, Thomas & Gregory. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Crane, Shirley Marie on Feb. 17, 2025, aged 88, in Kitchener, ON. Born on Bell Island.

Cunningham, Joan Marie (nee Fisher) July 31, 1933 - May 18, 2025 in Dartmouth, NS. Predeceased by her parents, Fred & Hazel Fisher & her brother Kevin. She was a graduate of Bishop Spencer College in St. John's. Wife of Bruce of 71 years. Mother of Susan, Beverly & Barbara. Sister of Raymond Fisher. Obit & photo The Halifax Chronicle, Halifax, NS, May 24, 2025

Dicks, Garry Cecil on April 26, 2025, aged 71, in Ontario. Born on May 8, 1953 in St. John's. He lived on Bell Island until he was nine years old, when his family moved to Georgetown, ON. Predeceased by his father Cecil Dicks on Jan. 14, 2000 & his son Greg. Son of Lillian (nee Gosse). Father of Jason, Jenna Voisin & Mark O'Neill. Brother of Deborah Kane. He was a Metro Toronto Police Officer for 14 years. In 2002 he moved to Penetang – Midland, ON to start a new career as a

mortgage broker. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page & Carson Funeral Homes – J. H. Lynn Chapel, Midland, ON.

Furey, Ignatius (Ig) Edward, RCMP, Retired. Feb. 8, 1933 – May 6, 2025. In Nova Scotia. Born in Harbour Main, predeceased by his parents George, 1940 & Margaret, 1997 & his stepfather, John Woodford, 1973, his brothers George, 2020 & Hubert, 2024. Husband of 65 years of Barbara (Carter). Father of Michael, Mark, Susan, John, Scott & Dawne. Brother of Marion Lewis, Lillian & James. At 16, he worked as a civilian employee of the US Navy in Argentina. He joined the RCMP on Jan. 5, 1954 & retired on Jan. 8, 1993 in Halifax, NS. Obit & photo The Chronicle Herald, May 10, 2025.

Hall, Terrance Wayne `Terry` in Texas on Nov. 2, 2024. Born on Bell Island on May 15, 1945. Predeceased by his parents, Chesley & Gwendolyn (Butler) Hall. In the early 1950s, his family emigrated to the United States and settled in Orange, California. He served in the US Armed Forces. Later, he graduated from Cal State Fullerton and Western State College of Law. He finished his legal career as the Federal magistrate judge for the 4th. Judicial District in Alaska. Husband of 49 years of Claire (Van Sciver). He & Claire retired in 2008 & moved to Texas. Father of Tom, Gwendolyn Shepard (Jason), Allison Plourde (Jim) & Anne Seneca (Colin). Brother of Bonnie & Robin. Obit & photo, Ramsey Funeral Home & Cremation, Georgetown, Texas.

Johnson, Mary Elizabeth “Terry” (Nee Gaulton) on Aug. 27, 2024 in Alonquin, Illinois. Born in Wesleyville, Jan. 5, 1943, daughter of Hedley & Ina Gaulton. Predeceased by her parents & brother Jimmy. Wife of 63 years of Raymond “Johnny” Johnson, Veteran, US Navy. They married in Feb. 1961. Mother of James & Raymond. Information from a tribute in the May 2025 issue of The Downhome magazine.

Moore, Elsie (nee Driscoll) on June 5, 1967 in Milford, MA. Wife of Donald F. Moore. Mother of Keith in Washington, DC. Sister of three sisters & three brothers, some of whom are in St. John’s. Obit in The Daily News, June 7, 1967. MUN DAI.

Murphy, Francis `Frank` of Lower Sackville, NS on May 16, 2025. Born on Dec. 24, 1936 in St. John’s. Predeceased by his parents, William & Florence Murphy. Husband of 64 years of Doreen. Father of Amanda, Michael, Mark, Wendy & Peter. Owner & operator of E Z Wood Products in Lower Sackville, NS. Obit & photo The Chronicle Herald May 27, 2025.

Myers, Raymond Joseph in Ontario, on April 9, 2025, aged 71. Born Nov. 24, 1953. Predeceased by his parents, Patrick & Elizabeth (nee Byrne) & his son Raymond, March 3, 2025, & his brothers, Johnny, Thomas, William, Bernard & Patrick. Husband of 15 years of Marilyn (nee Peddle). Father of Nancy Evans (Mark). Brother of Sheila Basha (George), Kevin, Mary Murphy (John), Angela McNamarra (Mike), Elizabeth Young, Theresa Wylie, Robert, & Christine Marrocco (Dino). Obit & photo Coutt’s Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Cambridge, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Penney, Joan Roberta (nee Goobie). In Calgary, AB on March 26, 2025. Born Feb. 17, 1939 in Bishop’s Falls. Predeceased by her parents, Clarence Goobie & Dulcie (Watts) & by her brothers & sisters, Everett, Aubrey, Maxine, Shirley, Roy & Pauline. Mother of Kathy Penney. A graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland, she was a teacher for forty years throughout the Province, including Vanier & Memorial University in St. John’s. She moved to Calgary in 2019. Obit & photo Carnell’s Funeral Home, St. John’s.

Pittman, Ethel Patricia “Trish” (nee Stevenson) on Feb. 7, 2025 in Fredericton,

NB. Born on Oct. 19, 1938 in St. John's. Predeceased by her parents, Charles & Margaret Stevenson & her first husband Bert Puddicombe, her second husband, Frank Pittman & her brother Ton & sister Joan. Mother of Marty, Connie, Derrick, Debbie & Frank. Sister of Mick. Obit & photo Ormocto Funeral Home & Crematorium, Ormocto, NB.

Power, Leo Edmund, aged 27. Accidentally drowned in Tellistonburg, ON. Eldest son of Leo Power of Fort Amherst, St. John's. Brother of six sisters & four brothers. Obit, The Daily News, June 6, 1967. MUN DAI.

Rees, Aubrey (Ross) Noel on March 1, 2025, aged 78 in Bowmanville, ON. Predeceased by his parents, Clarence & Winnie, his brothers, Cyril & Clarence & his sister Ruby. Also predeceased by his wife Rosemary. Father of Julie. Brother of Brian. Long-time employee of General Motors. He was a long-time member of the Kinsmen Club of Bowmanville. Obit & photo Northcutt Elliott Funeral Home, Bowmanville, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Scudder, Robinann Dale Cleveland of Casar, North Carolina. Originally from St. John's. Dec. 17, 1951- May 11, 2025. Her parents operated a boarding house. She moved to the United States in the late 1970s. Wife of Jeff. Mother of Gahre & Connie. She resided in Florida & New Jersey. Obit & photo Bass – Smith Funeral Home, Hickory, NC.

Skanes, Winifred "Winnie", Sarah (nee White) on April 18, 2025, aged 97, at

Stirling Heights Nursing Home, Cambridge, Ontario. Born on June 20, 1927 on Bell Island, daughter of William Howe White, from Pool's Island & Laura Mary Radcliffe, from Swansea, Wales. Predeceased by her husband, Hubert C. Skanes on March 15, 2000. Mother of Judy Hibbs (Malcolm) & Howard Skanes. Sister of Lydia Bennett. Obit & photo Coutts Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON. See also Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Tagliapietra, Dola Rosa (nee Benoit) Aug. 6, 1938 – June 10, 2025 in Dartmouth, NS. Born in Ship Cove, daughter of Aloysius & Annir Benoit. Predeceased by her parents & her husband Mario Tagliapietra. Former resident of NL, Toronto, Ignonish, Port Hawkesbury & Fall River. Member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Business entrepreneur. Mother of Caro, Tony & Lorraine. Obit & photo The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Ns June 17, 2025.

Udle, Charles, Edward May 10, 1936 – June 25, 2025. In Ottawa, ON. Born in St. John's, son of Eric & Marion Udle. Predeceased by his parents & his wife, Shirley (Hampton). They were married in 1957 and first moved to Ottawa in 1974 for six years. They returned to Ottawa in the early 2000s. Father of Ken, Elis, Scott & David. A long – time employee of the Federal Government. He was a professional drummer & bassist in a number of bands. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Home, St. John's. Interment at Dale Cemetery, Cumberland, ON.

`` Remember me in the family tree; my name, my days, my strife. Then I'll ride upon the wings of time and live an endless life. `` Linda Goetsch

**A Journey to a New Founde Land:
The Trials and Tribulations of William Lenton Webb**

James Webb

Family folklore echoes that he was a stowaway, but the historical circumstances may suggest otherwise.

My great grandfather, William Lenton Webb, was born in the small rural village of Merriott, Somerset, in the West Country of England in the year 1848. At a young age, the family was struck by an unfortunate circumstance. The young boy's father, a person he deeply admired and the breadwinner, deserted the family for London. In the sudden misfortune, the mother and children were left to provide for themselves. They are suddenly facing economic hardship, very limited opportunities, and no source of income. Without choice, the shattered family is now in the hands of the local overseer of the Poor Law and they must seek relief. The local parish overseers, like others who are responsible for administering the Poor Law for the community, are more driven to reduce the burden on the rate payers in the community than in finding relief for the poor. The overseer does find work for the young boy, now at the age of 12, as an indentured servant for a planter in Newfoundland who serves the local fishermen in a remote fishing village on the south coast of Newfoundland.

The young boy embarks on the three-week sail to Newfoundland in a merchant's sailing vessel and arrives to find himself under the care of a planter in the remote outport of Rencontre West. Like many before him, the young boy decides to stay in Rencontre West with his newfound family rather than to return to England at the end of his indenture servant's contract and comfortably slips into the planter's apprentice role. As he grows older, he eventually goes on to become a trader and a well-connected merchant serving the fishermen in Rencontre West and other surrounding communities. As a young man and married, he was suddenly able to take advantage of several opportunities that were taking place along the south coast. The opportunities included the collateral economic impact of the naval blockade of Fortune Bay, and the departure of a major merchant serving the south coast of Newfoundland. The events create economic havoc for the local fishermen. As a young man, he fills this void by starting his own business. Later, he manages to expand his business by setting up his adult sons in the fish produce business in other nearby outports along the south coast of Newfoundland.

His business, with his sons, prospered for several decades until after World War I, when the price of fish collapsed, and his business went into insolvency. But by this time, the war is over, and the once young man who was full of ambition, is now an aging man nearing the end of his life.

Life can be like a game of poker. No matter what your station is in life or at the table, we are all dealt a set of cards by that mysterious dealer who shows no favors. We can either fold or play with the hope that something good will come out of it. Whether William Lenton Webb left England as a stowaway or an indentured servant, or maybe by some other means, we can safely

say that he did not fold but played his cards to the best of his ability. That is all one could hope for.

THE TIMELINE OF WILLIAM LENTON WEBB

- Start of the Victorian Era
In England (1837)
 - William Lenton Webb Born November 4, 1848,
Merriott, Somerset, UK
Ref. General Register Office, UK
 - Arrived in Newfoundland (1860)
Ref. 1935 Newfoundland Census Report for
Rencontre West, NL
 - Married Jane Spencer, September 12, 1871,
Hermitage Bay, NL
Ref. Marriages of Fortune and Hermitage Bay
Parish of Hermitage, 1871-1872
- Bait Act of 1888 in Newfoundland
 - William Webb & Sons, Chief Merchant, 1890
Ref. Toll of the Seas by Robert C. Parsons
 - Trader
Ref. McAlpine's 1894-1897, Directory for Burgeo
and LaPoile District
- End of the Victorian Era (1901)
 - General Dealer
Ref. McAlpine's 1904 Directory for Burgeo and
LaPoile District
- Start of World War 1 (1914)
- End of World War 1 (1918)
 - Schooner Lady St. John cleared Rencontre for
Oporto with 3374 quintals of fish and 150 quintals
of haddock from Messrs. William Webb & Sons,
Ref. The Daily News, July 8, 1925
 - Schooner Lady St. John, 3114 quintals from W.
Webb to Oporto

Ref. Newfoundland Trade Review, Dec. 19, 1925

- Wm. Webb & Sons vs. Crosbie Co., January 1928
Ref. Decision of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, 1927-1931
- Start of the Great Depression (1929)
 - Alleged Insolvency
Ref. Newfoundland Gazette, September 1931
- Amulree Commission arrives in Rencontre West Circa 1931/1932*
 - Died September 6, 1935 in Rencontre West at the age of 86
- End of the Great Depression (1939)

* Note: The Amulree Report of 1933 recommended that the culling of fish be conducted independently. It is suspected that the Amulree Commission may have made a brief unscheduled stop in Rencontre West to get further insight on the culling situation with William Webb and his son Robert Webb. This is based on a photo of Rencontre West as shown in the final Amulree Report of 1933. The honorable J.M. Kent of Supreme Court of Newfoundland presided over the case of William Webb & Sons vs. Crosbie Co. regarding the culling of fish in 1927.

James Webb is the great grandson of William Lenton Webb. He recently joined Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador in July 2025. His father is from Burgeo and his mother is from Trinity, Newfoundland. He retired in 2019 after serving 41 years in the nuclear industry and keeps himself busy reading nineteenth century British and Newfoundland history.



PRISONERS AT THE ST. JOHN'S GAOL IN 1834

Janet Morrissey

At the Provincial Archives at The Rooms, the researcher will find the Government Records collection GN 2/2: Incoming Correspondence of the Colonial Secretary's Office. Few of these records are indexed, let alone transcribed. However, there is a selection of correspondence between 1831 and 1834 that has fortunately been indexed (see their Finding Aid #349) and what follows is an extract from that lucky selection. It is a *List of Prisoners confined in His Majesty's Gaol at St. John's, Newfoundland, July 9th, 1834*, found in Volume 17, page 317.

The letter records the names of 18 people housed at the St. John's goal as of July 9, 1834 and gives particulars such as their crimes, their sentences (and respective dates of each), who they were sentenced by and if / when they were released.

The early 1700s saw the first prisons and courthouses built in St. John's. With money raised by taxes imposed by Governor Henry Osborne, a new prison and courthouse were built in 1730. The combined premises were constructed of wood and were located on Duckworth Street. Over time, the facility became inadequate to the task, being overcrowded and becoming irreparable. In 1825, the governor of the day, Sir Thomas Cochrane, called for the construction of a new prison; this one was constructed of stone but was still considered to be inadequate, likely reflective of an ever-increasing population. This may have been the reasoning behind the tally for the Colonial Office – trying to get a handle on usage statistics. The stone prison burned down barely twenty years later in the Great Fire of 1846. This letter was written during that period before the fire. In the aftermath of the fire, prisoners were re-housed in Signal Hill barracks, marking the first time the prison was located in a building separate from the courthouse.¹ The current jail, Her Majesty's Penitentiary, was constructed between 1852 and 1859 and is still in use today.

According to a contemporary *Public Ledger* (December 31, 1833) item describing the Winter Sessions of the Supreme Court, "The calendar of prisoners is extremely long, and exhibits a degree of crime both in quantity and atrocity, unparalleled, we believe, in the history of this country." This comment tracks with the high number of people in jail for murder listed in this account – at least 9 out of 18, half of them.

Of the nine people accused of murder, two of them were women. Ann Morrissey of Trinity was convicted of murdering her illegitimate child after concealing its birth, though, in her testimony, she stated that it had been stillborn and her only wrongdoing was burying it. The last three months of her sentence were intended to be in solitary confinement.²

Catherine Snow was found guilty of murdering her husband, John. He went missing at the end of August 1833 but suspicion was raised when dried blood was found on his fishing stage. Sentenced to death, she was hanged twelve days after the list was compiled, on July 21, 1834, and then dissected (incidentally, the bill submitted by the surgeon is also in the records). The notation "respited" refers to the delay in carrying out the sentence because she was pregnant at the time of the sentencing in January of that year. Her accomplices, Tobias Mandeville and Arthur Spring, however, were hanged in January. There is debate to this day about her role in the crime.

Turning attention to the men accused of murder, nothing was readily discoverable about James McCabe. There was a James McCabe tried for murder in 1861³. Could the two have been related?

John Hennesy was convicted of manslaughter in the death of Timothy Rourke of Holyrood. The two were quarreling and, horrifically, Hennesy cleaved Rourke's head with a hatchet with such force that his 'skull was laid open to its base'.²

The *Public Ledger* reported that Joseph Hacket was charged with the murder of Edward Power in Labrador.⁴ He was sentenced to death but the list shows that he was released and the notation 'Reprieved' appears next to his name. A cursory search of the records did not shed immediate light on Hacket's fate.

Patrick Malone was brought to trial with Peter Downing for the murder of Robert Crocker Bray at Harbour Grace. Malone and Downing set out to rob the man, Downing's master, and murdered all who got in the way. Bray's child and servant girl perished at the same time.⁵

As of November 1834, Thomas Cooney had been confined for twelve months without charges being laid for murder due to lack of prosecution witnesses. This explains the denotation 'Not Tried' next to his name in the July list. He was charged with murdering the wife of his master James Hope, and her two children in Croque or Conch on the French Shore. He was brought to St. John's on October 22, 1833 and was still sitting in jail, awaiting prosecution on July 9, 1834.⁶

Peter Fannen [Fanning] was a baker who murdered his wife at Harbour Grace.⁷ It was an extremely heinous murder: he beat her to death with a spade. She was very pregnant at the time, nearing her confinement and the severity of the crime explains his permanent banishment from the Colony. Note that it was only about a month before this list was made (June 12, 1834) that 'An Act of Banishment' was passed in Newfoundland.¹ The letter doesn't indicate where Fanning was banished to.

Joseph Score was tried for the murder of John Elfort/Alford/Ellvert/Elliott (various spellings occur in various sources) at Partridge Bay, Labrador⁸. As with the quarrel between Hennesy and Rourke, this was a crime of passion, a blow to the head with an axe delivered in the heat of an argument.²

Several men stood accused of theft. In most cases, the stolen items were noted (clothes, watch, cows). In others, the party stolen from was logged (Baileys or Johnstons). Patrick Walsh was jailed for debt. Ultimately, all of the thefts, except William Fahey's from Johnstons, were not tried.

Michael Shaunahan appears to have received one of the harsher punishments – banished from the island for a period of 7 years but, while passage was being arranged, he was to be put to work doing hard labour. The "d" in the listing of his crime muddies whether he stood accused of suspicion of theft or both suspicion of murder and theft. For both of the men sentenced to hard labour (Shaunahan and William Fahey), the list points out that the toil was to be served at Duckworth Street, suggesting that the prison built by Cochrane in 1825 stood on the grounds of its predecessor, also located on Duckworth Street.

¹O'Rielly, Deborah, "Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador Building Report: H.M. Penitentiary, 85 Forest Road, St. John's" HeritageNL, https://heritagenl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/stjohns-h.m._penitentiary.pdf (accessed 10 Aug 2025)

²*Times & General Commercial Gazette*, January 15, 1834

³*Courier*, June 19, 1861

⁴Public Ledger, January 3, 1834

⁵Star & Conception Bay Journal, 15 Jan 1834

⁶Times & General Commercial Gazette, October 23, 1833 and November 26, 1834

⁷Public Leger, December 31, 1833 and Times & General Commercial Gazette, May 8, 1833

⁸Star & Conception Bay Journal, January 8, 1834

Appendix: List of Prisoners confined in His Majesty's Gaol at St. John's, Newfoundland, 9th July 1834

No.	Name.	Crime.	When Committed.	By whom Committed.	Sentence.	When Sentenced.	By what Court.	When Liberated.	By whom Liberated, with Remarks.
1	James McCabe	Murder	1825 July 10 th	John Broom Esq.	Not Guilty, being Insane	1825 July 20 th	Supreme	1833 July 9 th	Sent to Hospital
2	John Hennesy	Susp ⁿ of Murder	1832 Dec ^r 23	ditto	to be Transported for Life	1834 Jan ^y 24	ditto		
3	Joseph Hacket	ditto	1833 July 25	P.W. Carter Esq ^r	Death	" 17	ditto	June 23 ^d	Reprieved
4	Patrick Malone	ditto	Aug 30	Sheriff	ditto	" "	ditto	" "	ditto sent to Hospital
5	Ann Morrissey	ditto	Sep ^r 29	P.W. Carter Esq ^r	to be Imp ^d 6 Months	" 24 th	ditto		
6	Thomas Cooney	ditto	Oct ^r 22	ditto	Not Tried				In the Hospital
7	Peter Fannen	ditto	Nov ^r 21	Ja ^s Blaikie Esq ^r	to be Transported for Life	Jan ^y 24	Supreme		
8	Catherine Snow	ditto	" "	ditto	Death	" 10	ditto		Respited
9	James Doyle	Theft (Clothes)	" 28	P.W. Carter Esq ^r	to be Imp ^d 1 Year	" 24	ditto		
10	Joseph Score	Susp ⁿ of Murder	1834 Jan ^y 7	Supreme Court	d ^o 6 Months	" "	ditto		
11	Mich ^l Shaunahan	d ^o ... Theft	March 9 th	P.W. Carter Esq ^r	to be Banished the Island 7 Years hard Labour in Duckworth Street till a passage can be provided	July 5 th	C. Court		
12	Michael Ryan	Theft (A Watch)	May 10	ditto	Not Tried				
13	Catherine Power	d ^o (Clothes)	" "	ditto	d ^o			May 12 th	liberated on Bail
14	William Fahey	d ^o (at Johnstons)	" 12	ditto	hard Labour 2 Months on Duckworth Street	July 5 th	C. Court		
15	Laurence Clearey	d ^o (at Baileys)	" 16	ditto	Not Tried				
16	Josiah Pilley	d ^o (A Cow)	June 5	ditto	d ^o				
17	Robert Sawyer	d ^o d ^o	" "	ditto	d ^o				
18	Patrick Walsh	Debt to Edm ^d Moore	" 26 th	Body Writ	d ^o				

List of Prisoners confined in His Majesty's Gaol at St. John's, Newfoundland, 9th July 1834.

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D. B. Carter Esq. Sheriff
9th July 1834

Upcoming BIFHSGO Conference



BIFHSGO's 2025 Annual Conference Features England and Wales



Ottawa: 14 June 2025

Throughout history, societies have included unfortunates who grappled with poverty, mental illness, or plain bad luck. These disadvantages might well worsen in times of wars, epidemics, changing social policies or other conditions. Your English and Welsh ancestors could have been among the disadvantaged people facing such challenges.

Recognizing this, BIFHSGO has chosen as its theme for this year's virtual annual conference, to be held **Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 October 2025:**

"Researching the Disadvantaged of England and Wales"

Expert speakers for this event include **Mark Carroll, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, Peter Higginbotham, Judith Hill, Clare O'Grady, and Gloria Tubman.** Their talks will cover topics related to this theme: early poor relief methods, the Poor Law, mental institutions and the Workhouse, showing how affected individuals and their society faced these predicaments.

Back this year is the popular Expert Connect when several of our speakers will be available for attendees to discuss British Isles genealogy and ask questions. As well, the conference will fit any schedule since you have the choice of attending the live sessions or watching the recorded sessions later at your convenience.

Whether you are a novice genealogist or a seasoned family historian, you will find tips on furthering your research skills and gain the impetus to expand your family history story. Although of particular interest to people with English or Welsh roots, the conference will benefit anyone interested in family history research and genealogy in other countries.

The conference registration fee (\$C35 for members, \$C50 for non-members) includes the expert presentations, the Expert Connect session, and access to the presentation videos and handouts until 30 November. Visit our [website](#) for all the details and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Bluesky](#) for the latest updates.

Plan to register for BIFHSGO's 2025 virtual conference!

Registration Opens 1 September!

BIFHSGO is the leading Canadian family history society with a focus on the British Isles. Located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, the Society encourages research and its dissemination through programs that connect, educate, share, and inspire. In May 2025, the American National Genealogical Society presented BIFHSGO with an Award of Excellence for its outstanding work in the pursuit of genealogy.

Editor's Note: Requested by BIFHSGO to share conference information

CASUALTY LIST

Bill Whelan

News of the battle came to the country in the first week of July.

776 men and 25 officers of the First Newfoundland Regiment answered roll call in the evening of the last day of June of 1916. They went forward from their accommodation in the village of Louvencourt and reached their destination trench at 2 am. They went into battle at 9:15 on that Saturday morning, the 1st of July. On that same day, in Newfoundland, the Evening Telegram reported *BRITISH LAUNCH GREAT OFFENSIVE*. There were no details, no mention of the Newfoundland Regiment. In Newfoundland the weather was mild and typical of summer. In Picardy the Regiment experienced unwanted and unexpected rain in the last week of June as it finished preparation for its part in the great Anglo-French assault on the Somme. The last day of June was fine.

Newfoundland had no Sunday newspapers. There was no household radio, anywhere. That first Sunday passed without any knowledge that the Regiment had been in battle and that many men had been killed and more wounded.

The Daily News was a morning paper. On Monday, the 3rd, it reported *TREMENDOUS OFFENSIVE ON WEST FRONT* but did not mention the Regiment. The daily Casualty Report was well behind the real situation, mentioning only those few wounded from the 17th to the 28th of June. The Telegram and the Herald, evening papers, had nothing further to report that day. Away from St John's the local papers had nothing on the battle. In the Bay of Islands the Western Star had nothing. In Twillingate the Sun had nothing. In Harbor Grace there was no Standard that week because the Railway had misplaced a shipment of the paper, the newsprint, Messrs Munn & Oke needed to print the Standard.

On Tuesday the Daily Star reported *BIG BATTLE DEVELOPING*. The week went on in Newfoundland. Johnson sold insurance. Smallwood made boots. Horwood milled lumber. Nardini ran his general store. Hickey caught fish. Goodridge bought fish. The Nickel Theatre showed **Over Secret Wires**.

Dicks sold books. Reid ran his railroad. Herder published his newspaper. The Crescent Picture Palace showed **Love's Enduring Flame**. This was a silent movie, with Professor McCarthy at the piano to provide the customary musical accompaniment. Dr Lehr pulled teeth. The schooner **Little Gem** left Gaultois on the 6th, bound for Gibraltar with 2680 quintals from T Garland.

The week went on in Picardy. The medical corps did what they could for the wounded in field hospitals and moved them to more permanent hospitals in England. A great wave of disquiet settled over St John's following a statement by Government House that the Regiment had been actively engaged in the great Anglo-French offensive.

The Thursday papers had the first comprehensive news of the battle. Under **Killed in Action, July 1**, the Telegram reported the deaths of Captain Eric Ayre and 2nd Lieutenant Gerald Ayre. Another

man of the Ayre family was killed on the Somme that day serving with the 8th Norfolk Regiment. These men were brothers and cousins.

Lieutenant Hubert Herder, son of the Telegram's publisher, was killed that day. He was one of the three Herder brothers in the Regiment. Another assisted in training and a fifth had volunteered but was turned down on medical grounds.

Captain James Ledingham was in the Royal Free Hospital in London, shot in both arms and his right leg. With him was Lieutenant Stan Robertson, shot in the back. Captain Ledingham had lain wounded five hours in a shell hole and had then heard Lieutenant Robertson nearby. He took Robertson on his back and crawled to British lines.

On Friday, the 7th, the Daily News gave a full report of the battle, under the heading **Honourable and Gallant Gentlemen**. A letter from the Governor, WE Davidson, said that individual notification of next of kin would be dispensed with in this instance, to avoid delay and anxiety. Lists of dead and wounded would be issued to the press as soon as possible.

2nd Lieutenant W Ryall was listed as killed in action. In time of peace William Ryall was a watchmaker. His father was at Smallwood's, the bootmaker. 2nd Lieutenant Robert Bruce Reid was listed as missing. His father owned the railway. 2nd Lieutenant John Roy Ferguson was killed in action. His father was a Roadmaster with the railway.

2nd Lieutenant R Wallace Ross was killed in action. In time of peace he was an electrician with the railway. His brother was Lieutenant Hector Ross. 2nd Lieutenant Clifford Rendell was missing. His father was Dr Herbert Rendell of Duckworth Street.

Of the 25 officers at Roll Call on the evening of June 30, 8 were dead, 4 missing, 6 wounded, by noon the next day. 2nd Lieutenant Bertram Dicks was in serious condition with gunshot wounds in both thighs. Among the enlisted men, Private Mark Hicks of Bonavista was wounded in the leg and hip, Private Ralph Nardini of Main River in the right arm, Private George McWhorter of Humbermouth in the left leg. There were many more, men from every great bay, from every shore.

Also on Friday, the schooner **Edith M Cavell** left Ramea for Oporto with codfish from J Penney & Sons. This vessel was named for an English nurse executed as a spy, shot by a German firing squad in October of 1915 for harboring Belgians of military age and helping English and French soldiers escape across the Dutch border. The St John's Daily Star of Friday reported that the schooner **Little Secret** had arrived at Marystown from its base at Fowey, to load fish. Captain A Dear had many acquaintances in Newfoundland and had been in the Newfoundland trade 40 years. Fowey is in Cornwall.

On Saturday, one week after the battle, the News published a letter from JR Bennett, the Colonial Secretary, saying that the Regiment had gone forward under machine gun fire at close range and that the wounds caused by such high velocity fire were clean and that more than 90% of the wounded should survive. By that time it was known that 9 officers had been killed, 3 were missing, 17 wounded. Lists of men killed and wounded were still incomplete. The total at that time was 230.

2nd Lieutenant Horatio Rowsell of Bonavista was listed as dangerously wounded, in his abdomen and both thighs. He was in an army hospital at Abbeville. Private Harrison Courage of Catalina was also dangerously ill, from gunshot wound to the abdomen. He too was in a hospital in France. It was not possible to move these more seriously wounded men to hospital in England. Most of the wounded who were moved to England had sustained wounds to the arms or legs, rather than the abdomen or chest. Private John Pennell of Curling was listed as seriously wounded in the leg, requiring *immediate operation*. That was another way of saying amputation.

On the 11th the News published a poem entitled **IN MEMORIAM –The Ayre Brothers**. Among the 40 lines were ..

They were four among that number;

That daring, gallant band.....

Also on the 11th came the notice that 2nd Lieutenant Rowsell had died at Abbeville. He had two brothers in the Regiment. On the 24th came notice that 2nd Lieutenant Clifford Rendell had died of septicemia and gas gangrene, despite amputation of his right leg.

On July 12 the Western Star reported that the public telegraph office at Curling was besieged by anxious people worried that their sons or brothers would be listed among the killed or wounded. In St John's the Post Office was besieged also but here there was a sinister element, *a certain clique that seems to live in the post office corridor, and who always and ever have the bad story*. This was a group of 5 or 6 wasters who hung about the place spreading rumors of the death of this officer or that man. They kept this up, whispering to the anxious crowd, during the very anxious time as the town learned of major casualties. A man who signed himself **Britisher** wrote to the **News**, asking that the authorities deal with *these heartless beings*.

Our Regiment Covered With Glory said the News on the 13th, quoting the London Times correspondent at British headquarters in France as saying that the Newfoundlanders were the only overseas troops engaged in this operation and that, while it was not yet time to tell the full story, it was clear to all that they had *behaved with completely noble steadiness and courage*.

In the Newfoundland way, Mr Charles Jeffery of St John's wrote to the Daily News, saying that he did not wish to grumble. However, he had learned from the newspaper of the 13th that Private Reuben Castella of Pouch Cove had been wounded in the arm. He was in the 11th Stationary Hospital, at Dannes Camiens. His wound was severe.

Mr Jeffery's complaint was that Reuben Castella was down in the Regiment's books as Reuben Costello. But Mr Jeffery, and Reuben Castella, much preferred the Portuguese name, Castella, to the Spanish name, Costello. After all, Reuben's father was a man named Castella who came to Pouch Cove from Portugal. Jeffery had asked the Colonial Secretary to have the records changed, without success. Now he was worried that gifts from home might go astray, to some soldier named Costello, instead of the real Castella. After all, the man was a hero. Was he not entitled to be known by his own name?

Death and Glory said the Harbor Grace Standard on the 14th. The Standard was well behind the real situation. This was the issue meant for publication on the 7th. *The number of dead among the officers was very great.....the main body of our men were marvelously preserved from death....*

Under the heading **Newfoundlanders Charge**, the London Daily Mail of the 14th of July said that the appointed objective of the Newfoundland Regiment in the great attack was to capture the third line of German trenches, after English regiments had captured the first two lines. But the artillery barrage was ineffective and the English regiments were machine-gunned. Then came the Newfoundland turn. They cheered and went forward and a few reached the German wire. This was almost intact. They could do no more, said the Mail.

In Newfoundland, the Mount Cashel Garden Party went ahead that year on the 24th of July, as scheduled. As justification for such a thing in wartime, the Telegram pointed out that the Garden Party was the main money-making event of the year for the orphanage and that more than 40 Mount Cashel boys were in the armed forces. The Christian Brothers had two squads drilling. The Reverend Mr Ennis was in charge.

On the west coast there was a Requiem Service for the war dead at the Cathedral in St George's. The Mount Cecilia Garden Party went ahead and was a great success. Elias Basha won the gold watch in the shooting contest at the Woods Island Picnic.

In the Hospital Report of the Western Star for the 27th of September, John Pennell of Curling said that he had lost a leg but was receiving the best of attention. Private Jack Curley of Woods Island was dead at Beaumont Hamel. Private Edward Jesso of Woods Island was in hospital, wounded in his right hand. Two other Jessos from Woods Island were in the Regiment. Private WC Pennell of Curling was dead at Beaumont Hamel.

Coastal and overseas trade continued. The schooner **Earl Kitchener** was named for the man in the poster, the man who said: **YOUR KING AND COUNTRY NEED YOU!** This vessel left Burin for Oporto in mid-July with 1742 quintals. The schooner **Quickstep** arrived at Fogo with coal. The schooner **Wee MacGregor** returned to Wesleyville from the Labrador with 450 quintals. The schooner **Pretty May** left Burgeo for Oporto with 2068 quintals. The schooner **Marconi** arrived at Wesleyville from the Straits with 300 quintals.

The week went on in England. In Cambridge this was holiday time, the Long Vac, the best holiday of the year in time of peace. In time of peace WH Balgarnie pursued his studies in the Classics. He published scholarly papers in his subject. He taught the boys of the Leys School the rudiments, and something beyond that, of the languages and the cultures of Greece and Rome. He was Mister Chips in the novel **Goodbye, Mister Chips**. Among his students in time of peace were Eric Stanley Ayre and Wilfrid Douglas Ayre, of St John's, boys who grew to become officers of the Newfoundland Regiment in time of war. Both were killed at Beaumont Hamel, two of the four men of the Ayre family killed on the Somme that day.

ROACHE, ROACH, ROCHE

Rosalind Stokes

There are multiple family lines with diverse spellings of the surname that evolved over time such as Roache, Roach, Roche and Roch. Many of these families have origins in Ireland. Both of the family histories we have in our collection traces immigrants John Roche/Roache who was born October 8, 1816 and Jane Cullen, both born in Wexford, Ireland and were married at Middle Cove, Newfoundland in 1840.

John worked for the Governor of St. John's as a chauffeur and horseman. When he retired the Governor wanted him to take a piece of land down on the end of Quidi Vidi lake. He refused as he wanted land in Middle Cove.

John and Jane's daughter, Mary Ann Roche, is the person made famous by a Newfoundland folk song, *The Star of Logy Bay*, according to Ed Roche. He states an early version of the song mentions Mary Ann, born in 1843, by name. While in Newfoundland in 1992 Ed elaborated on the story. Mary Ann Roche, daughter of his great grandfather John, was very beautiful and a Mr. Malone was very much taken with her to her father's dismay. John used connections to get her a house maid job at The Commissariat until Malone disappeared from the scene. Subsequently she returned to Middle Cove and married Thomas Kelly in 1870.

John died February 7, 1861 and Jane on June 10, 1880 in Middle Cove. Their headstone can be found in the old Torbay cemetery.

One of these files has 63 pages of history going back to 1793 titled Viking, Saxon, Norman, Gael? There is also a link for the DNA project that has identified one main ancestral lineage dating back to 1200 AD that enables people to explore their deep ancestry and to reveal connections between various branches of the Roche family. Both files have descendant charts, although one names the places where they were born as well as a little family history.

In 1854 the military were still in charge of Fort Amherst. The earliest lighthouse keeper mentioned in the journals was a military man, Philip Roach. His name appears in journals until the fall of 1852 when he died. His widow was Honora Roach. There is no indication that he is connected to the above Roach family.

Sources:

Roche Family Tree compiled by Jim and Jack was donated by James Federick Roche.

Roche, John 1847-1899 Author John Patrick Roche

Fort Amherst, St. John's Nearest Outport by Rosalind Power

If you are a descendant of any of the above families, maybe you can help us identify the Roach photograph below.



In 2021 a volunteer at a SPCA Thrift Shop in Halifax received a number of articles from a man who was dropping off items from his mom's attic. She immediately spied the vintage frame with the inscription "The Roach Family" and, being interested herself in family history, asked about the photograph. All he knew was that the photo was of the ROACH family from Newfoundland. Wanting to find this family she purchased it and planned to send it to Newfoundland. Her neighbour had a sister from Newfoundland who was visiting and brought the treasure back with her to be donated to The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. It arrived August 14, 2025.

Should you have any information concerning this photograph, please let us know by email ancestor@fhsnl.ca

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